

✓ Latest release

Public sector employment and earnings

Contains estimates of public sector employees and cash wages and salaries by level of government, state and industry

Reference period 2023-24 financial year

Released 7/11/2024

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Key statistics

There were 2,517,900 public sector employees in the month of June 2024 comprising:

- 365,400 employees in Commonwealth government (including defence force personnel);
- 1,939,100 in State government; and
- 213,500 in Local government.

Total public sector cash wages and salaries in 2023-24 was \$232,136.6 million.

Sector estimates

The highest quality public sector employment and jobs information is available in the [Public sector employment and earnings \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/public-sector-employment-and-earnings/latest-release\)](#) and [Labour Account Australia \(/statistics/labour/labour-accounts/labour-account-australia/latest-release\)](#) releases. The ABS is reviewing sector estimates in detailed Labour Force statistics, which are subject to inherent limitations and should be used with caution.

Coverage

Although earnings estimates relate to the full twelve months of the financial year, employment estimates relate to the month of June in the given year. Given these differences, the ABS does not recommend using these components together to calculate average earnings.

Public sector employees and cash wages and salaries

	Employees June 2024 ('000)	Cash wages and salaries 2023-24 (\$m)
Commonwealth Government	365.4	37,318.6
State Government	1,939.1	178,372.4
Local Government	213.5	16,445.5
Total Public Sector	2,517.9	232,136.6

Employees

Public sector employees, level of government, states and territories ('000)

	June 2023				June 2024			
	C'wealth	State	Local	Total	C'wealth	State	Local	Total
NSW	83.6	540.2	61.0	684.7	86.9	557.4	63.4	707.6
Vic.	59.9	470.5	56.9	587.3	62.9	486.0	57.4	606.2
Qld	48.4	393.3	47.3	489.0	50.0	408.8	48.1	506.9
SA	19.8	140.4	11.2	171.4	21.3	143.2	11.6	176.1
WA	18.0	210.6	24.6	253.1	19.0	219.8	25.5	264.3
Tas.	5.9	53.0	4.4	63.3	6.0	54.8	4.6	65.4
NT	9.3	30.4	2.9	42.6	9.5	31.6	3.0	44.1
ACT	105.4	33.6	..	139.0	109.8	37.5	..	147.4
Australia	350.3	1,871.9	208.2	2,430.4	365.4	1,939.1	213.5	2,517.9

.. not applicable

Feedback

States and territories

Public sector cash wages and salaries, level of government, states and territories (\$m)

	2022-23				2023-24			
	C'wealth	State	Local	Total	C'wealth	State	Local	Total
NSW	8,170.6	48,446.7	4,627.1	61,244.4	8,938.0	52,355.7	5,052.8	66,346.4
Vic.	5,808.1	40,702.5	3,806.5	50,317.1	6,362.8	42,988.7	4,028.2	53,379.8
Qld	4,631.1	36,183.3	3,899.3	44,713.7	5,004.7	39,758.0	4,114.1	48,876.8
SA	1,924.6	11,293.2	874.3	14,092.0	2,151.3	11,952.1	958.8	15,062.1
WA	1,730.2	18,483.1	1,645.8	21,859.0	1,911.3	19,545.1	1,775.7	23,232.0
Tas.	542.2	4,314.9	292.5	5,149.5	566.3	4,740.9	323.4	5,630.6
NT	840.7	3,061.4	180.3	4,082.5	901.9	3,290.4	192.6	4,384.9
ACT	10,288.2	3,241.0	..	13,529.2	11,482.3	3,741.6	..	15,223.9
Australia	33,935.6	165,726.2	15,325.7	214,987.5	37,318.6	178,372.4	16,445.5	232,136.6

.. not applicable

Industry

Public sector employees and cash wages and salaries, industry

	Employees ('000)		Cash wages and salaries (\$m)	
	Jun-23	Jun-24	2022-23	2023-24
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	57.8	62.3	6,860.5	7,771.7
Construction	8.3	8.9	820.0	892.0
Transport, postal and warehousing	76.6	78.0	7,986.9	8,478.9
Information media and telecommunications	16.8	16.8	1,865.8	1,936.5
Financial and insurance services	19.9	21.1	2,327.9	2,593.7
Rental, hiring and real estate services	7.2	7.6	632.3	664.6
Professional, scientific and technical Services	36.1	38.7	3,507.2	3,803.1
Public administration and safety	817.6	849.4	76,888.5	83,444.4
Education and training	737.5	753.9	53,803.2	57,904.5
Health care and social assistance	615.4	642.4	57,574.4	61,684.5
Arts and recreation services	21.4	22.8	1,409.0	1,568.5
Other industries a.	15.7	15.9	1,311.9	1,394.2
All industries	2,430.4	2,517.9	214,987.5	232,136.6

a. Includes Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Mining, Manufacturing, Wholesale trade, Retail trade, Accommodation and food services, Administrative and support services and Other services.

Data downloads

Public sector, employees and cash wages and salaries

↓ Download all (94.54 KB)

Level of government, states and territories

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Industry

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
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Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6248.0.55.002.

Methodology

[Public sector employment and earnings methodology, 2023-24 financial year](#)